

**Washington State Children's Administration and Foster Parent
Quarterly Regional Consultation Forum (HB 1624)**

September 20, 2011; 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Children's Administration Office; Spokane, WA
1313 N. Atlantic, Ste. 2000, SW Conference Room

Minutes

Kris Otoupalik, 1624 Rep, Foster Parent
Becky Keifer, FP
Ginger Schutt, FP
Pam Neill, FP
Charlie Neill, FP
Kim McNaughton, FP/FFK
Archie Oestreicher, FP
Christie Ingersoll, FP
Dru Powers, FFK
Melike Bludau, FP
Amber Sherman, FP/FFK
Laurie Palmquist, DLR

Linda Rogers, FFK, Foster parent
David Needham; FTDM Staff
Lisa Johnson, Supervisor
Donna Stirling, Licenser
Penny Oliver, DLR
Launi Burdge, AA
Brent Borg, AA
Kris Randall, AA
Connie Morlin, DLR/AA
Marty Butkovich, RA
Tim Abbey, AA

TRAINING: Handouts on training coming soon were distributed. Highlights include Parenting Plus to be offered in Spokane, Moses Lake, Colville, Newport and Clarkston. See www.fpas.org for all current trainings in Region 1 North.

FFK: Linda reported on recruitment and retention. Linda reported on the Clothing Perk and The Teen Closet. The Clothing Perk has now moved to its new location in the same complex as the Teen Closet. Watch for news of the open house and contact your worker for a referral for either clothing bank.

- ***Clothing Perk*** (clothing room for 0-12) has moved into their new location at 9212 E. Montgomery in the Spokane Valley! It is an amazing space! FP Stacey Graffia is the lead volunteer for the Clothing Perk and doing an amazing job pulling it all together with a great group of fellow foster parents and volunteers! The first community member has sponsored decorating a room and paying the rent – ***DDS Jarrod*** in Spokane Valley. ***Metals for Christ***, another community partner, have agreed to donate proceeds to the Clothing Perk. Fifty teens were seen at ***Teen Closet*** in August. Cindy Gardner will assist with night time emergencies.
- We are also working on a collaboration with **Safety Net** to help recruit homes for teens and to assist with independent living. More to come on this in the coming months.
- The **3rd Annual Region 1 North Mini Conference** – to be held on September 24th with more than 150 expected. This year's conference offers limited day care and 8 hours of training credit for caregivers.

SUPPORT CONTACTS: Dru distributed a list of Support Systems Contacts. The support groups have been very active. See www.fpas.org for contact information.

Dru – Appreciation Events:

- Appreciation Events: 165 attended the Spokane Caregiver Appreciation Picnic at Audubon Park in Spokane on July 24th! With 85 at the Stevens County Appreciation Picnic in Chewelah on Sept. 10th. Approximately 50 attended the appreciation spaghetti dinner in Omak and just over 100 attended the family fun event in Moses Lake for appreciation. Colfax and Clarkston did a joint dinner event earlier this year to show appreciation as well as Newport. Wenatchee will have an event in early 2012.

Issues – Dru Powers

- **Immunizations** – what is the new policy for foster parent's children and why has it been implemented?
 - Penny Oliver, DLR licensing supervisor, reviewed the WAC and distributed a copy of immunizations required per age of child.
 - In order to be licensed for ages birth to 24 months, it is the expectation of licensing that the children in their home be immunized (regardless of medical, religious or philosophical reasons).

WAC 388-148-0340: (3) If you are providing care and have minor children of your own who are on the premises of a home or facility, your children must have proof of current immunizations.
- **Who can provide respite care?** A foster parent was called out of town on an emergency and her adult child - who lives in the home - could not be paid for respite care.
45101. Service Definition; Payment for respite services is not available to individuals who reside or live in the caregiver's residence. Respite services may be provided by a relative of the child or caregiver, only when the respite care provider resides outside the child's current placement.
 - **Question why this policy.** It seems less traumatic or upsetting to the child in foster care if they are cared for in their home by someone who they are familiar with. We understand it might not be approved for date night or something like that. But when the normal caregivers are out of town in an emergency situation, it seems this should be considered.
 - Brent Borg, Tim Abbey and Launi Burdge addressed this. They suggested contacting your SW and resolve this on a case by case basis.
 - It was agreed we would address this more fully at our December meeting.
- **Receiving Care** - Request for more clarification on who will be paid receiving care.
 - Kris Randall, along with Brent, Tim and Launi addressed this. There has been much confusion on this. Children placed on an emergency basis should be able to be paid receiving care for the first 30 days. However this gets confusing if the child ends up at a higher than level one. Please consult your SW for clarification.

Feedback from the Deer Park Support Group on what is right:

- ✓ The Support Groups and Dru Powers for helping foster families.
- ✓ Michelle Hess, a great Social Worker who helped in the adoption of grandkids and really made it easy.
- ✓ Training which has been helpful to many in our group.
- ✓ Services of Carol Thomas to help our kiddos.

What we could work on according to the Deer Park Support Group:

- ✓ Startup help for the needs and expenses for relative placement
- ✓ More money in the budget to help with daycare for foster families.
- ✓ Finding help for our overworked Social Workers.

Regional Administrator Update:

Marty Butkovich reported that we are predicting a 5 – 10% budget reduction to make up a 1.4 billion dollar shortfall in the state. News releases are due out next week from the Governor's office. A balanced budget must be presented to the Governor in December. Information will be shared as the impact trickles down to the regional level.

1624 MEETING: The next statewide 1624 meeting will be held on October 17 from 1-4. It will be by video conferencing at the DSHS office at 8517 E. Trent, Spokane. Only Cindy and Kristen may speak, but others may attend. Each Region presents two (2) issues. The consensus was the following:

1. **There is a concern about permanency planning;** the discussions and decisions made about it.
 - a. There is a group of children that fall in the long term foster care category that are between 0-14 years old. It is our understanding that this group of extremely difficult to place children based on medical, developmental, and or behavioral needs is not to be considered for long term foster care agreements until age 14. We would like this to be an option and a policy written to reinforce this rare group of children may be placed as a permanent plan in long term foster care.
 - b. The Casey foundation is assisting in the Permanency "round table" looking into approximately 200 cases statewide of children who have been in foster care the longest. We would like the results of this study to be sent to the 1624 reps when it is completed.
 - c. We have also been made aware that there is a permanency planning work group going on internally in CA. Would it be possible to find out what they are working on as far as the matrix and any other things they are working through. Possibly have a FP on the work group to help report back to the group? The work group is comprised of many CA including Vicki Stock and Carrie Kendig.
2. **Our second issue is the budget reduction and how the 10% cuts will be affecting our kids,** adoptions and our social workers. There is a lot of concern about this and what can be done to give CA a voice to keep helping those that cannot defend themselves.

Next Statewide Meeting – Monday, October 17; 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.; Nisqually Room, Tumwater DCFS and by video conferencing (in Region 1 that is available at the DSHS office at 8517 E. Trent)

Next Regional Meeting – Tuesday, December 6, 2011 in Spokane; time to be determined